



Minutes Nevada Homeland Security Commission Quarterly Meeting

ATTENDANCE

DATE	3 May 2006
TIME	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
LOCATION	401 S Carson St – Carson City 555 W Washington – Las Vegas
METHOD	Teleconference between sites
RECORDER	Denise Parsons

Committee Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Dr. Dale Carrison, Chairman	X	Senator Dennis Nolan	
Jerry Keller, Vice-Chairman		Assemblyman John Ocegüera	X
Maureen Peckman	X	Glade Myler, Attorney General's Office	X
Robert Hadfield	X	Dr. Bradford Lee, Nevada State Health Division	
Bill Woerner	X	Frank Siracusa, Director, Division of Emergency Mgmt	X
Gonzalo Cordova		Dr. Christopher Lake, Nevada Hospital Association	
Robert Fisher		Heidi Sakelarios, Health Program Manager, Nevada State Health Division	X
Steven Smith	X	Giles Vanderhoof, Homeland Security Administrator	X
Jim Spinello	X	Gwen Hadd, Homeland Security Administrators Office	
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X	Larry Casey, Homeland Security Commission Staff	X
Bill Welch		Denise Parsons, Homeland Security Commission Staff	X
Paul Wagner	X	Joe Curtis, LEPC, Storey County	X
Dennis Balaam		Marge Gunn, Lincoln County Emergency Manager	X
William Young	X	Gene Campbell, Chief, Homeland Security Division, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue	X
		Terry Savage, Director, Department of Information Technology	X
		Mark Blomstrom, Deputy Director, Department of Information Technology	X

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 9:00 am Chairman Carrison called the meeting to order. Larry Casey called the roll. 9 of 14 members were present, and so a quorum was established.

2. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Carrison stated that the Commission continues to review the Vulnerability Assessment and that a portion of it will be released to the public. He also stated that ex-officio members of the Commission are appointed and need to attend all meetings.

The Chairman stated that they will be taking some of the items out of order on the agenda. First, Glade Myler will be presenting his overview of the Public Health Law Course.

5. OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH LAW COURSE

Mr. Myler stated that he will be presenting his overview of the Public Health Law Course in Lake Tahoe at a Public Health Conference in August. Further, he stated that the Law Course details civil liabilities for the State and is of importance due to the very real possibility of a flu pandemic. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

6. RURAL TASK FORCE REPORT

Joe Curtis, Vice-Chairman of the Rural Task Force, provided an overview of current rural task force activities.

Goals included:

1. Accepting legitimacy.
2. Establishing membership.
3. Creating a mission statement.
4. Defining direction & goals.
5. Establishing communication between HSC & the Counties – recommend a letter be sent out to each county.
6. Recommending that the RTF visit each county to establish a face-to-face communication.
7. Seeking Legislative concerns so that they can be presented to the HSC.

Glade Myler stated that the RTF cannot appoint non-members.

Chairman Carrison stated that the Commission will recognize the RFT and their purpose, which is to bring problems from the rural counties to the attention of Commission. He further stated that having Commissioner Bob Fisher, as the Chairman of the RTF is sufficient for recognition.

Mr. Curtis stated that in the future, the RTF will be able to bring to the Commission's attention, issues of the rural counties.

There was no further comment.

4. COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY REPORT

Terry Savage provided a quick update summarizing interoperable communications. He stated that they are currently seeking approval for Version 2.0.

Mark Blomstrom provided a brief review of the report.

New additions/changes included:

1. Statement of Principles
 2. Action Plan, Section 3.
 3. Appendices – B – regional Plan development
- Mr. Blomstrom stated that Nevada was chosen as a model to develop this planning methodology.
4. Section 5 – description of Safecom Program
 5. Appendix C – Executive Summary
 6. 4 initiatives have been expanded under Section 3: Governance, Capabilities Assessment Initiative, Funding Initiative, Public Education.

Mr. Blomstrom thanked Bob Fisher and Chris Lake for their significant contributions to Version 2.0.

Mr. Savage stated that he was putting together a Statewide NV communication Coordinator position by the end of the calendar year.

He also stated that Mr. Blomstrom did an excellent job regarding the recent grant requests in offering grant development and applications in the work groups.

Mr. Blomstrom stated that voting during the grant request work group favored Interoperable Communications.

He also stated that a total of 24.6 million was requested for Interoperable Communications, with a breakdown of 6.1 million for SHSP and 18.3 million for UASI grant funds.

Mr. Blomstrom stated that Version 2.0 involves a detailed engineering study.

2.4 million to be allocated for:

- technology gateways, platforms – connectivity
- higher level – Core 4 interconnects
- radio cache
- microwave interconnect module.
- develop training material syllabus for communication specialists – 1st responders.
- continually develop for 1st responders.

Chairman Carrison asked about the timeline regarding this study?

Mr. Savage stated that integrating the main systems – 4 Core concepts, etc. could be accomplished within 2 years with funding. But because of the recent change in funding, the focus will be on training & exercises and that they will be the higher priority.

He also stated that if you assume full funding within 3-5 years, there will be considerable size changes.

Mr. Blomstrom concurred. He stated that the degree of funding determines what will get done in two years, and that Interoperable Communications will require 3-5 years for significant changes to occur.

Chairman Carrison asked what technical changes do you anticipate in 5 years, and would they change the plan?

Mr. Blomstrom stated that within 5 years:

- Software will require regular upgrades but underlying hardware will last much longer.
- Initial input will be at a higher level, but there will be continuous maintenance and training.
- Foundations & infrastructure will need to be updated – but will not be outdated in 5 years.

Mr. Savage indicated that the plan would be reviewed at least every 2 years.

Mr. Hadfield stated that the volunteer workforce would be disappearing and that there is no funding structure for these activities.

He also stated that one should not rely on grant funds for Interoperable Communications, and recommended that the Commission consider recommending to the Legislature that a permanent funding source be established to provide ongoing funds. The legislature can deal with it as ongoing appropriations.

Mr. Savage stated that he would support an ongoing funding stream.

Mr. Vanderhoof concurred. He stated that this is something that needs ongoing funding.

Ms. Carmazzi stated that the anticipated grant award date was 5-31-06, and that since they don't know how the application was graded, they don't know how much funding will be received. Although, she did speculate that the State should get at least \$6 million. She also concurred with Mr. Hadfield's statement regarding a permanent funding stream.

Chairman Carrison stated that a request for a permanent funding stream for Interoperable Communications be initiated by the HSC Legislative & By-Laws Committee.

Chairman Carrison motioned to accept Interoperable Communications Version 2.0. More than 1 Commissioner seconded the motion.

Chairman Carrison stated that a request for a funding stream for Interoperable Communications be referred to the Legislative & By-Laws Committee for bill draft.

Mr. Spinello stated that he would schedule a Legislative & By-Laws Committee meeting ASAP to discuss this issue.

Chairman Carrison stated to Mr. Siracusa that the Commission is concerned about the way things are being handled. In regards to the grant – the commission doesn't want to make recommendations without first reviewing.

Mr. Siracusa stated that they expect to receive the Grant Award by 5-31-06. It is anticipated that it will be at least \$6 million. After receiving the Grant Award, they will immediately schedule a work group meeting so that they can review the prioritization.

The top two priorities listed are:

1. Interoperable Communications
2. TEW

Mr. Siracusa also stated that the Work Groups would make the determination of priority and would present it to the Finance Committee who would in turn recommend it to the full Commission and then submit that to DHS.

Mr. Vanderhoof asked how long the Commission has to decide?

Ms. Carmazzi stated that they do not expect to see a Grant Award until the end of June. There will be a little bit of leeway regarding the timeline. The Work Groups will be assembled immediately which will leave the bulk of the time for the Commission to review and approve.

Mr. Hadfield stated that the amount of information will be clearly focused and easier to review. He stated that all the major issues should be resolved during the Work Group session.

Ms. Carmazzi stated that only Statewide projects would be considered. No longer would they consider looking at individual needs. Budgets will be consolidated -- 1 project manager/project.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Carrison motioned to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2006 HSC meeting. More than 1 Commissioner seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman made a motion for adjournment. The motion was unanimously seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 am.

Meeting notes completed by Denise Parsons, for questions call (702) 486-0798 or email deniseparsons@dhs.nv.gov .